Early Relationships:
Building a Strong Foundation

An update on our Community's Early Childhood Initiative

Growing Stronger Together

Who Are We?

Mission:

C3 fosters and promotes a collaborative system of services and supports to empower young children and families.

Vision:

Colchester's children and families are thriving within a nurturing community.

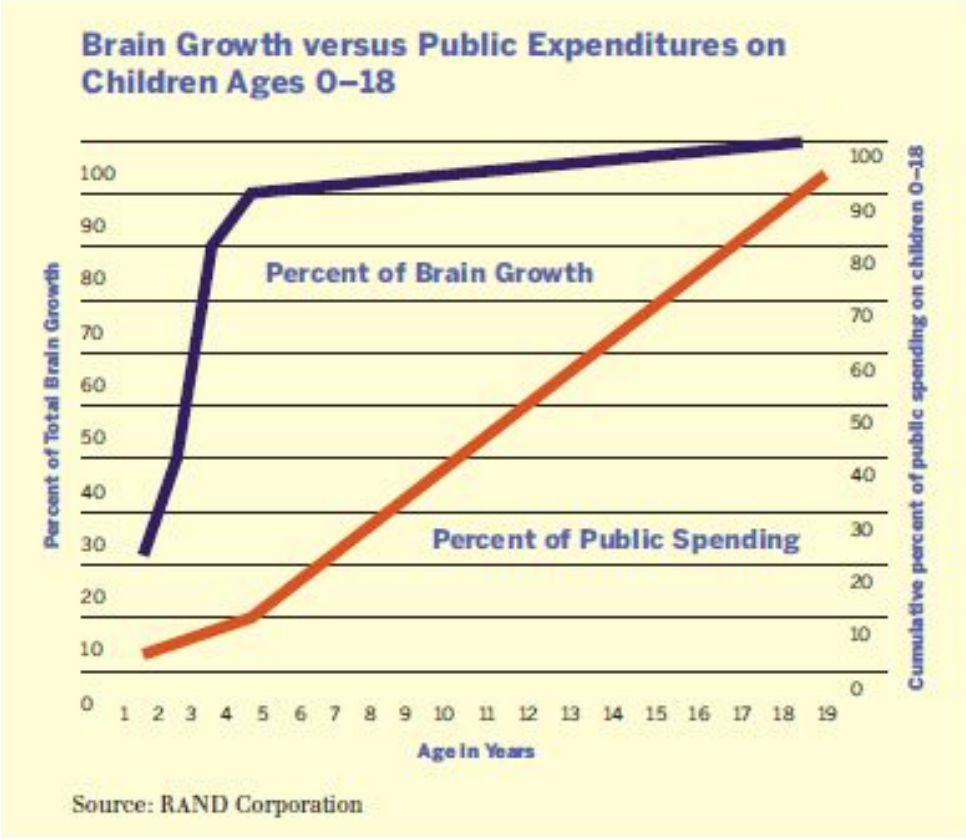
Who Do We Serve?

Families with Children Birth to age 8
(including pregnant women)

- Birth Rate of 159 in 2019 (CT DPH)
- Children 0-5 years ~ 795
- Children in grades K- 3 (~636)
- **Total population ~ 1,431 children**

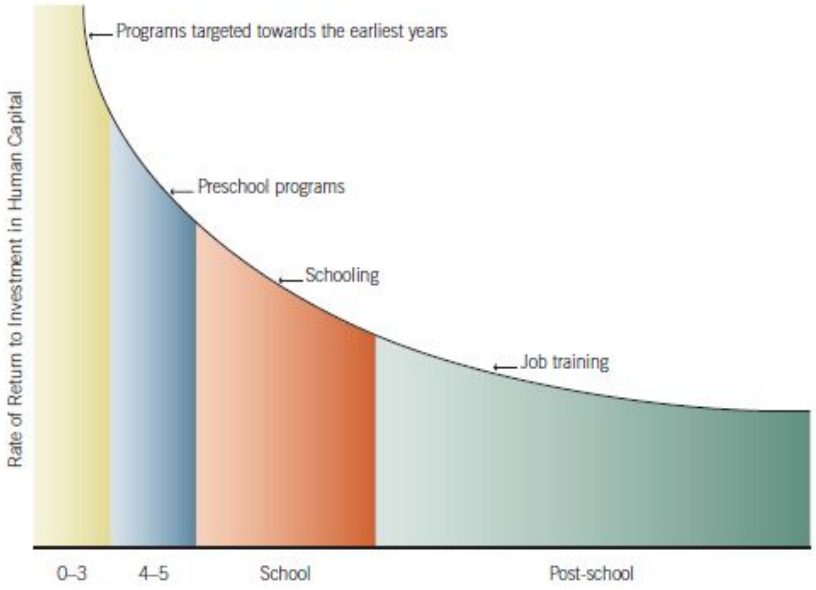
When to Invest in People?

Typical Investment


Brain Growth versus Public Expenditures on Children Ages 0–18
Percent of Brain Growth
Percent of Public Spending
Percent of Total Brain Growth
Cumulative percent of public spending on children 0–18
Age in Years
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Source: RAND Corporation

Return on Investments



Source: Heckman and LaFontaine (2007).

What Does Thriving Look Like?

Knowledge and Skills

Able to Communicate

Strong Social-Emotional Skills

Secure Relationships

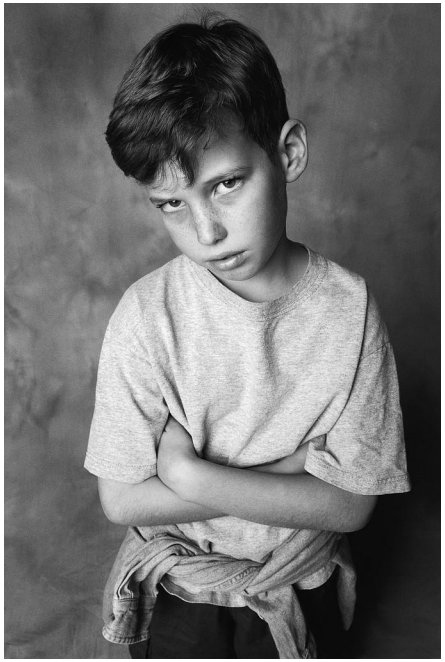
Good Physical Health

Healthy Peer Relationships

Able to get needs met

Children and Families having a hard time…

Chronic Health Conditions



Lower paying jobs

Retention/ Remediation

Increased Social Services

Special Education

Juvenile Delinquency

Increased Jail Time

How Do We Thrive?

Children are more likely to thrive when their families have the support they need.

RELATIONSHIPS

How Do We Support and Empower?

Strengthening Families framework:

- to increase family strengths,
- enhance child development, and
- reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.
- Work to engage families, programs, and communities in building the five protective factors.

5 Protective Factors

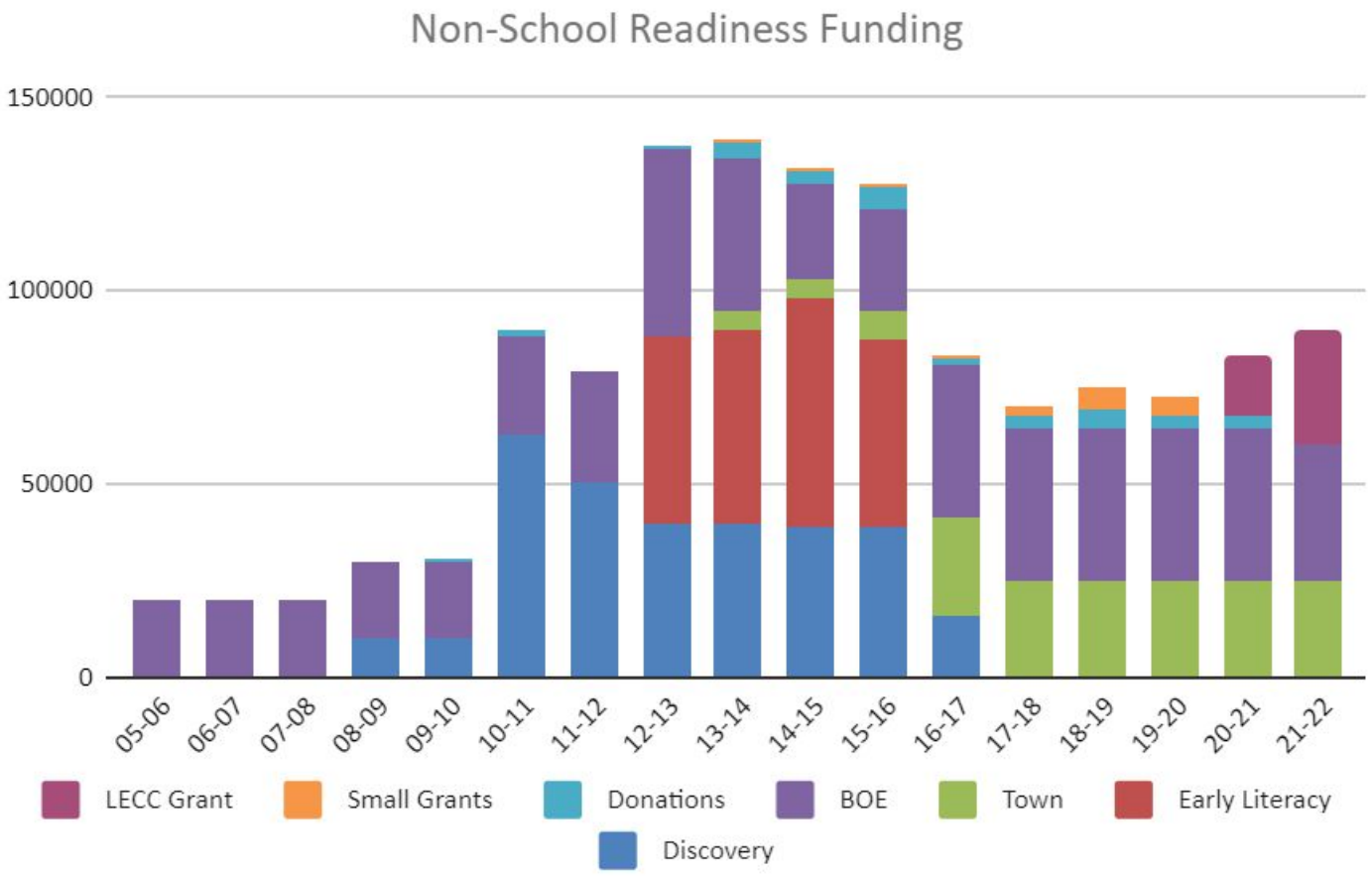
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Concrete support in times of need
- Social and emotional competence of children

What is Our Reach?

Last Year 2020-2021

- 82 families participated in 99 sessions of programming
  - Virtual Parent workshops
  - Virtual Village Support Group
  - Outdoor Play and Learn Groups
  - Monthly Stroller Walks
- 31 School Readiness families
- 3 Early Care and Education Professional Development sessions

Financial Picture



What Do Families Say?

From Beth Tiezzi

Growing Stronger Together

Questions or comments?

For more information, please contact

Cindy Praisner, Early Childhood Coordinator

860.537.0717

cpraisner@colchesterct.org

www.ColchesterC3.org